

What is claimed is:

1. A method of manufacturing a micro molten glass droplet, comprising the steps of:

colliding a molten glass droplet through hole formed in a plate-shaped member; and

pushing out at least part of the glass droplet to a reverse surface of the micro through hole as a micro droplet, thereby forming a glass droplet with a diameter of not more than 5 mm.

2. A manufacturing method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said collision of the molten glass droplet is by a free fall of the molten glass droplet dropped from a nozzle.

3. A method of manufacturing a micro optical element, comprising the steps of:

colliding a molten glass droplet with a micro through hole formed in a plate-shaped member;

pushing out at least part of the glass droplet to a reverse surface of the micro through hole as a micro droplet, thereby forming a glass droplet with a diameter of not more than 5 mm; and

solidifying the obtained glass droplet by cooling, thereby obtaining a micro optical element.

4. A manufacturing method as claimed in claim 3, wherein said micro optical element is a micro spherical lens.

5. A method of manufacturing a micro optical element, comprising the steps of:

colliding a molten glass droplet with a micro through hole formed in a plate-shaped member;

pushing out at least part of the glass droplet to a reverse surface of the micro through hole as a micro droplet, thereby forming a glass droplet with a diameter of not more than 5 mm; and

solidifying the obtained glass droplet by cooling, thereby obtaining a pressing material; and

re-heating the obtained pressing material, and pressing the material with a mold, thereby obtaining a micro optical element.

6. A manufacturing method as claimed in claim 5, wherein said micro optical element is a micro spherical lens.

7. A method of manufacturing a micro molten glass droplet, comprising the steps of:

colliding a molten glass droplet freely dropped from a nozzle, with a micro through hole formed in a plate-shaped member; and

by adjusting any or all of a diameter of the micro through hole, a distance from the nozzle to the micro through hole and a temperature of molten glass, pushing out at least part of the glass droplet to a reverse surface of the micro through hole as a micro droplet, thereby forming a glass droplet with a diameter of not more than 5 mm.